

Contributions.

LIVING IN VAIN.

Restore to me the freshness of my youth,
And give me back my soul's keen edge again
That time has blunted. O my early truth!
Shall I not you regain?
Ah! mine has been a wasted life at best;
All unreality and long unrest!
Yes, I have lived in vain!
But now no more in vain. My soul, awake;
Shake off the snare, untwist the fastening
chain!
Arise, go forth, the selfish slumber break,
Thy idle dreams restrain!
Still half thy life before thee lies untrod,
Live for the endless living, live for God!
I must not live in vain!
My God, the way is rough, and sad the night,
And my soul faints and breathes this weeping
strain.
And the world hates me with its bitterest spite;
For I have left its train,
With Thee and with thy saints to cast my lot,
Ah! my dear Lord, let me not be forgot;
Let me not live in vain.
Can we not part in silence, since forever,
This world and I—from scorn and taunt
refrain?
Must it still hate and wound? still stir the
fever?
Of this poor throbbing brain?
Ah! yes, it must be so; my God, my God!
'Tis the true discipline, the needed rod,
Else I should live in vain.
The foe is strong—his venom'd rage I dread;
Yet O! my God! do thou his wrath restrain;
Shield me in battle, soothe my aching head
In the sharp hour of pain.
But more than this. Oh! give me toiling faith,
Large-hearted love, and zeal unto the death:
Let me not live in vain.
Restore to me the freshness of my youth,
And give me back my soul's keen edge again.
Ah! let my Spring return, bright hope and truth,
Shall I not you regain?
Oh wasted life, my God, shall mine now be;
Hours, days and years filled up with toil for
Thee,
I shall not live in vain.

—Horatius Bonar.

LOYALTY TO CHRIST.

BY J. S. C. SPICKERMAN.

"I like the Brethren Church best;"
"I shall never join any church but the
Methodist; I wouldn't feel at home in
any other church;" "I shall never leave
the Baptist church; my folks are all
Baptists;" "I prefer the Episcopal
church, its order of service is so beau-
tiful."

How often we hear such expressions
from those who profess to be servants
of Jesus! So many people seem to
think that the choice of a church is a
matter in which they need consult only
their own preferences and convenience.

We are taught nothing more plainly
in the Bible than that we should do
God's will in all things. One petition

in the prayer which Jesus taught his
disciples was, "Thy will be done in
earth as it is in heaven." He himself
set the example in Gethsemane, when
he prayed three times, "Not my will
but thine, be done." Again he said,
"Not every one that saith unto me,
Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom
of heaven, but he that doeth the will of
my Father which is in heaven." Now
there is nothing in these or any of the
other passages of Scripture teaching
submission to God's will to indicate
that it is any less important in choos-
ing a church than in other matters.
Yet some people act as if their church
relations were a matter of indifference
to God, or else none of his business.

To-day Christ's church is split up
into a multitude of sects, thus scatter-
ing its strength, placing it in a bad
light before the world, and in some
places utterly paralyzing its work.
This condition is bound to continue as
long as people put selfish motives be-
fore God's will in this matter. I admit
that there are in all Christian bodies
those who are earnestly trying to do
God's will; who, if convinced that their
present church relations were not in
accord with the Scriptures, would
promptly change them; yet it cannot
be denied that if all were of that mind,
we would be much nearer Christian
union than we are now. Jesus said "If
any man will do his (God's) will he
shall know of the doctrine."

Some talk of a union of the churches
into one which will teach no theology,
but only morals and charity. Such a
union will never be. When Christ's
church is united into one body, it will
teach everything that is found in God's
word—morals, doctrines, ordinances
and all.

I can find no better language with
which to sum up these remarks than
the motto which one of our sister de-
nominations has chosen for its young
peoples' society: "Loyalty to Christ in
all things, at all times."

Byron, Nebraska.

THE OBJECT OF RELIGION.

The end and design of all religion;
the proper effect and produce of good
principles; the ultimate view and the
fundamental intention of all religious
truths implanted in man, either by na-

ture or teaching, is the practice of vir-
tue. For the word religion in its very
native and original meaning signifies,
an obligation upon man to do what is
just and virtuous and good; to live in a
constant habitual sense and acknowl-
edgement of God, under a firm per-
suasion and continual expectation of
the righteous distribution of rewards
and punishments at their proper season
in the eternal judgment of God; and in
the practice of universal justice and
charity toward men; this is the founda-
tion of religion, the fundamental doc-
trine at all times and in all places, in-
variably and eternal.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of
God, came into the world to save, and
by the preaching of forgiveness, upon
true repentance, brought back sinners
to the kingdom of God through the
obedience of the gospel. Religion is
either gold or silver or precious stones
built upon the foundation of Christ; or
on the other hand an erroneous opinion
because it has no moral influence. It is
in the language of our Savior, that
which denominates a man either to be a
vine in which are many fruitful branches
or that he is a thorn or a bramble bush
from which it is impossible ever to ex-
pect to gather figs or grapes.

ETTA MYLES.

Aleppo, Pa.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Whatever we may undertake to do,
we generally look to the importance
thereof, but what would be of more im-
portance than living a life that would
be pleasing in the sight of our heavenly
Father; by living such a life we would
be sure to reap a rich reward. There
is no other life worth living than that
of a Christian life. Some live for
wealth but this can never save them;
instead of saving them it will draw
them further and further away from
God. How true are the words we
find recorded in Luke xii, 34, "Where
your treasure is, there will your heart
be also." Then why not strive to lay
up treasures in heaven. We feel sorry
for the person who has no religion in
his heart; who does not see the impor-
tance of trying to save his soul and fit
and prepare himself for that better
home, but who is contented with the